

# The Daily Charge

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*"Telling the MND-Baghdad Story"*

Saturday, Dec. 16, 2006



(Photo by Spc. Jeffrey Alexander)

## Making new friends

1st Lt. Adam Napier, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, gives a bottle of water to a little boy during a water drop in Mohammed Al Albass, Iraq. Coalition forces provided water supplies to the local Iraqi villagers Dec. 5, three days after terrorists destroyed the main pipeline into the village.

## Soldiers move into observation role with IP

By Cpl. Robert Yde  
2-1 Cav. Public Affairs

BAGHDAD - For the past five months, Soldiers with the 1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, out of Fort Lewis, Wash., now attached to the Fort Hood, Texas-based 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, have focused much of their efforts on training members of the Iraqi national police.

The two forces have conducted

numerous, joint operations with the coalition forces in the lead and the INP taking on a little more responsibility each time out.

"Up to this point, we've been planning all the operations," Troop C commander, Capt. Adam Grim explained of the partnership between his Soldiers and the INP.

However, the focus of these operations has shifted recently with increasing efforts concentrated on turning over added security responsibilities to Iraqi forces. Police

officers with the National Police's 6th Brigade took major steps toward this goal during missions conducted Dec. 8 and 9.

While members of the INP have been involved in the execution of previous missions, the cordon-and search operations conducted on these two days were planned exclusively by the INP.

While small teams of Soldiers accompanied the INPs during the search opera-

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# IA provides health care

By Pfc. Shea Butler  
7th MPAD

BAKARIYA, Iraq - Residents of Bakariya village, young and old, with ailments from the common cold to chronic strokes, gathered in a local school to seek medical attention from the Iraqi army and coalition forces Dec. 9.

The Iraqi army set up a makeshift clinic to provide extra health care to the locals with the support of U.S. troops. This medical operation provided medicines that aren't readily available at the local clinics.

Iraqi and American military physicians were present to treat the locals. They gave out medicine and hygiene products.

"They (the Iraqi army) aren't just a war fighting mechanism. They are just like us. They have to take care of the people and they are learning quickly how to do that," said Sgt. 1st Class David Tunison, a medic with 2nd Battalion, 12th

Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division.

Long after coalition forces leave Iraq, the Iraqi army will still need to do civil missions such as medical operations

Capt. Robert Callaghan, a fire support officer with 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, and his troops are usually the ones who set up medical operations like this. They do planning for transportation, security and intelligence.

This time, they had more help and direction from the Iraqi army.

Missions like this are for the people, so locals can put a face with the army that is serving them.

"The purpose ... was to show the locals that the Iraqi army wants to help," said Iraqi 1st Lt. Harith, a physician with 3rd Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division. "We have to make a connection to the people."



(Photo by Pfc. Shea Butler, 7th MPAD)

**Iraqi army 1st Lt. Harith, a doctor with 3rd Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division, examines a local Iraqi boy's ear at a school in Bakariya, Iraq.**

## Arabic Phrase of the Day

**gahwa**

**Defined:  
coffee**

## Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



**Today**

**High: 53  
Low: 43**



**Tomorrow**

**High: 49  
Low: 43**



**Sunday**

**High: 55  
Low: 41**

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# Working, living outside the wire

By Sgt. Cheryl Cox  
1-1st Cav. Public Affairs

AL TARMIAH, Iraq - Surrounded by a concrete wall and an anti-coalition city, one would expect life to be one of little relaxation and lots of chaos. But one group of Soldiers are finding ways to enjoy their time away from the hustle and bustle of Camp Taji, Iraq.

When the Soldiers of Co. D, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment first arrived in Tarmiyah, Iraq, they were preparing themselves for the worst.

"I was expecting to live much like we did when we were at the (Military Operations in Urban Terrain)

site at Fort Hood," explained Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Stout, a Demon Company platoon sergeant. "But when we got inside there was running water, full power and most of the comforts of life in Taji."

While this sounds great, the majority of Soldiers don't always have a chance to enjoy the comforts. The Soldiers run on a rotation of three six-hour shifts around the clock.

"The schedule starts as soon as we arrive to relieve the outgoing Soldiers and continues for the entire four-day rotation," said Staff Sgt. Charles Wilkerson, a team leader with Demon Company.

"I really can't complain about the living conditions out here," said Spc. Michael



(Photo by Sgt. Cheryl Cox, 1-1 Cav. Public Affairs)

**Spc. Andre Clark, a driver with Co. D, 2nd Bn, 8th Cav. Reg., sits on his cot listening to music shortly after arriving at the Joint Command Center in Tarmiyah, Iraq.**

Henrie, a Demon Company Soldier. "This is much better than what the units that have deployed before us had. Of course, there are always things that could be improved, but the conditions could also be much worse."

When the mission is complete and the relief unit arrives, the Soldiers know the job is never done. It is then that they return to Camp Taji to perform vehicle and weapons maintenance and prepare for the next mission just four days later.

## Iraqi National Police take over bigger role in cordon and search missions



(Photo by Cpl. Robert Yde, 2-1 Cav. Public Affairs)

**An Iraqi national police officer looks inside the closet of a house in Baghdad's Abu Dischir neighborhood during a cordon-and-search operation with 1-14 Cav. Soldiers.**

### Observation

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tions, they were there merely to observe and provide feedback if asked.

The INPs spent several hours searching homes and talking with the local residents. While the searches turned up nothing on this morning, the mission was deemed a success as the police officers were met with little defiance by the populace.

Grim said that this was important, as coalition and INP forces continue to build relationships with locals and show them that they are dedicated to providing a secure environment.

The next day, the INP forces targeted a much larger area in the neighborhood of Heg al Seha and were assisted by Soldiers from Troop A.

According to one national police officer, 1st Sgt. Firas Kalel Abraham, this area has been challenging in the past, with a large amount of sectarian violence.

"We want to clean up this area and help these people," he said through an interpreter.

The mission ran much like the one the day before, with coalition forces providing the outer cordon and small teams of Soldiers accompanying the police officers through the neighborhood.

However, this time INP forces were able to detain four suspected terrorists and confiscate several rifles and miscellaneous electronic equipment that could be used for bomb making.

"They're really good at searching these homes," said Capt. Patrick Patterson, a platoon leader with Troop A. "They know where insurgents typically like to hide things and so they go right for those places first."

Not only did the INP perform well during the search operations, but they showed improvements in other areas as well.

"It started off with simple things," Grim explained. "We first had to train them not to have their weapons on fire or their fingers on the triggers during patrols," he said.

"Now we don't have these problems, and we're progressing to the higher level things like training them to plan and then executing that plan."



(Photo by Travis Bartoshek, Killeen Daily Herald)

## "He sees you when you're sleeping..."

**By Amanda Kim Stairrett**  
Killeen Daily Herald

FORT HOOD - Families and Soldiers braved the cold Dec. 8 when the 1st Cavalry Division officially kicked off the Christmas season with a tree lighting and visit from Santa Claus.

Santa was delivered to the division headquarters by the Horse Cavalry Detachment's wagon team, where he was greeted by a crowd of thrilled children.

Shawn Wallace, son of Sgt. 1st Class Shawn Wallace of 1st Cavalry Headquarters and Headquarters Company, was especially excited to see Santa come in on a charging wagon. While many other children were startled when Horse Cavalry troopers fired their weapons upon Santa's arrival, Shawn could do little to contain his enthusiasm. When Santa stepped off the wagon, Shawn was among the first to run up and greet him.

Melanie, Shawn's mother, brought he

and his 8-year-old sister, Hailey, so they could see the tree lighting and Santa. Hailey wanted to hear Charity and Tabitha Wells of the group "Stillwater," sing carols and get some cocoa.

Santa then moved inside headquarters where he took photos and handed out presents to the children. His elves, the protocol Soldiers, handed out candy, cake and drinks and took photos, making sure everyone who came in got a chance to meet Santa and get a present.

After all the children went through the line, members of the rear command got their chances to sit on Santa's lap and pose for photos, too.

Col. Larry Phelps, First Team rear commander, said he didn't think that so many people had ever attended a 1st Cavalry tree lighting. It was important that the families share time together because the hardest thing about a deployment is being alone, he said.

The division planned for 500 people,

but some estimated that more than 600 attended.

Phelps also used the event to welcome home Soldiers of the 4th Infantry Division. Leaders from the division, Col. Dick Francey Jr. and Sgt. Maj. George Zamudio, were also on hand to accept a banner from Phelps, which hung on the outside of 1st Cavalry headquarters the last year. It read, "4th I.D. - Best Wishes for a Safe Return. 'Cav's got your back.'" It was replaced with a new banner that reads, "Welcome home Task Force Ironhorse."

Phelps praised his 4th Infantry counterpart for his help in preparing the rear detachment for the current deployment. The 4th Infantry rear command have been good partners, mentors and friends, he said.

Phelps also thanked the 4th Infantry leaders and Soldiers for ensuring 1st Cavalry Soldiers had all the training and equipment they needed to prepare them for the recent handover in Iraq.

# Stuff a pink slip in Vick's stocking

By Pfc. M. Benjamin Gable  
7th MPAD

We all want the biggest and best presents for Christmas. It's inherent. Everything is within our grasp at this time of year; whether it is new clothes, jewelry, or even a new car. Seeing our loved ones, or "fans" smiling faces as they open their presents is worth the debt we may incur during the holiday season. Going by this rational, I say let's rid ourselves of the worst gift the Atlanta Falcons have given us since June Jones.

After six years of watching Vick unravel in December like so many poorly wrapped gifts, I say we trade and/or release him and start in his place a neglected present from the University of Virginia, Matt Schaub.

December is the month where teams, not unlike many families, come together or fall further apart. This is the month where playoff contenders separate themselves from playoff pretenders. The Falcons, on the other hand, will once again be left off the "nice list" and deserve nothing short of a stocking full of coal. Falcons' fans have but one person to send their season's "greetings" to: Michael Vick.

Vick was once the "next generation" quarterback that was no doubt on many



(Photo by Spc. L.B. Edgar, 7th MPAD)

## Pfc. M. Benjamin Gable

NFL coaches' wish list. He was the "Playstation 3" to other quarterback's "Gameboy." Vick's attributes even sounded like something on every Pop Warner football player's Christmas list. With his rocket arm and laser-like passing abilities along with his lightening-quick feet, Vick was the quarterback you "had" to have.

Now, I want an exchange. The Atlanta Falcons are again coming apart at the seams. During "the most wonderful time of the year" Falcons fans were given maybe the most unwanted gift of all. After a terrible half of play versus the New Orleans Saints, Vick offered his version of

"the dirty bird" to booing fans in the Georgia Dome, his two middle digits.

We Falcons fans have learned the best "gifts" aren't always the ones at the top of the list. Often times, the ones that fall closer to the bottom, not unlike Matt Schaub in the draft, often become the gifts we appreciate the most.

Schaub is waiting to be "unwrapped" and become the Falcons new leader in the huddle. During the preseason he has shown promise and an upside that could soon make Falcons fans forget about Vick. The previously mentioned Cowboys "sacked" their starter Drew Bledsoe and turned to back-up Tony Romo. Romo now has the Cowboys atop the NFC East and has solidified himself as a star.

Starting Schaub and benching Vick is a chance the Falcons must take to get a sense of direction for the team. Schaub is a tall quarterback with impressive accuracy and arm strength, to go with his superb decision-making in the pocket. He will bring stability to a franchise that has the consistency of eggnog.

With the New Year fast approaching, the Atlanta Falcons' resolution should be to give the back-up Schaub the reins to the offense and let him deliver what football fans in Georgia want the most: a Super Bowl contender.



(Photo by Maj. Randall Baucom, 1st BCT, 1st Cav. Div. PAO)

## Gen. Casey visits Ironhorse troops

Gen. George W. Casey (second from left), commanding general, Multinational Forces - Iraq, visited with Col. Paul E. Funk II (far right), commander, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Dec. 14 on Camp Taji, Iraq. The general took the opportunity during his visit to meet some of the brigade's troops and to take a tour of the brigade's area of operations.